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# AFGHANISTAN

## PHOTO & CAPTION

### On the Path to Sustainability



Masons work with unskilled laborers to reconstruct six kilometers of footpaths in Nili, the capital of remote Daykundi Province. Engineered to last for decades, these concrete, brick, and stone footpaths will provide permanent relief for pedestrians who typically commute through knee-deep mud during the harsh winters.

Burdened by the absence of paved roads and sidewalks, Daykundi essentially shuts down each winter after the arrival of heavy rains and snowfall. The footpaths in and around the capital are part of a broader plan to ease transportation within the province and beyond. In addition to the footpaths, USAID recently completed renovation of the only airfield in Daykundi, and is currently rehabilitating the province's key southern vehicle access route, the Tamazan Road.

To date, USAID projects have employed more than 2,500 skilled and unskilled laborers in the province. This is significant in that, due to the province's isolation and dearth of employment opportunities, Daykundi residents frequently make the arduous trek to other provinces or even neighboring countries, such as Iran and Pakistan, to find work. USAID projects allow Daykundi laborers to remain near home and contribute to the development of their own economy and infrastructure.

***USAID, through its implementing partner Central Asia Development Group, is working with local laborers to facilitate air, road and pedestrian transportation in and to the remote province of Daykundi.***

In rehabilitating Daykundi's transportation infrastructure, USAID and local laborers are creating sustainable, long-term benefits for the province. Footpaths, roads, and airstrips allow residents greater access to local bazaars, regional commercial centers, and employment. Improved infrastructure also reduces the difficulties associated with delivery of goods and supplies to the remote province, and enhances provision of social services, such as emergency transportation.

As masons mortar footpaths and laborers widen roads, access to Daykundi improves and opportunities for a better life expand. USAID supports Daykundi residents in their effort to pave a path toward a better future for their remote mountain province.